

## FOREWORD

Few aspects of the American Civil War hold a more compelling interest than the history of the blockade runners who tried the Federal blockade of the Southern ports. This history is filled with romantic tales of valuable cargoes brought through with great bravery to a Confederacy starved by war. Wrecks like the MODERN GREECE bear a silent witness to those vessels that did not make it.

The cargoes of the blockade runners have long been known; but until 1962 when the Navy divers found the MODERN GREECE and began an operation which brought to shore most of the materials inventoried in this publication, no vessel had been salvaged so extensively. This publication is an inventory of all the materials recovered from the MODERN GREECE. These are of interest to the professional, serious student, collector, and amateur who wants to know more of the vessels and goods of the mid-nineteenth century that came through the Federal blockade.

The arrangement of the work itself is aimed at these interests. The first section is an overview of the history of the vessel from her building to her present day protected status. This also frames her within the general history of blockade running so that the value of her contents might be better understood.

The second portion, the inventory itself, is in the form of a modified encyclopedia. The text is set up to give ready access to desired data. The articles are alphabetically arranged based upon their use: hardware, housewares, surgical instruments, etc. This allows the reader to review all the items of a specific type without having to scramble through the entire volume. The Fort Fisher Preservation Laboratory inventory number is placed next to each article entry for ease in using the publication relative to the Laboratory's collection. The number recovered of each type of artifact is given to allow the reader to get for himself an accurate impression of the cargo contents and the Laboratory's collection. This also points out the significance of unique items. Basic measurements are given to work in conjunction with the scale drawings. These give a clear picture of the actual size of the artifacts. Drawings, descriptions, and information relative to the markings found on the artifacts are also included. The descriptions of the artifacts are as brief as possible. In the interest of thoroughness, all the known different types of similar artifacts are illustrated.